

# Indiana Trails Advisory Board

March 6, 2014 - 3:00 PM

Dobbs Memorial Park

Nature Center

5170 E. Poplar Street

Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

## Meeting Minutes

### Board Members Present:

All Terrain Vehicle Users – Gary Williams

(proxy)

Bicyclists – Nathan Smurdon (proxy)

Environmental groups – Kevin Hardie

Four Wheel Drive Users - Ryan Sweany

Hikers – Tim Calahan

Mountain Bikers - Jeff Fetterer

Equestrians- Yvette Rollins

Parks & Recreation Agencies – Melody Jones

Pedestrians - Pat Martin

Higher Education/Health - John Lentz (proxy)

Trail Support Groups – Angie Pool

Users with Disabilities – David Meihls

### Members not present:

Off-Road Motorcyclists

Snowmobilers

Water Trail Users

### DNR Staff:

Nila Armstrong

### Guest:

Jeff Edmondson – Knobstone Hiking Trail Association

### Welcome

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins welcomed everyone. She announced the proxies: Neil McCammack gave his proxy to Gary Williams, Nancy Tibbett gave her proxy to Nathan Smurdon and John McNichols gave his proxy to John Lentz.

### Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves including the two new board members.

### Review and Approval of December 2013 Minutes

Jeff Fetterer moved to approve the minutes with a clarification of next meeting location. Gary Williams seconded. Motion carried.

### Amended Agenda

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include the Election of Officers. Gary Williams made the motion to amend the agenda to include the Election of Officers. Tim Calahan seconded. Motion carried.

## **Officer Elections**

Gary Williams moved to re-appointment of the same office holders from last year, Chairwoman Yvette Rollins and Vice Chairman Dan Plath. Pat Martin seconded. Motion carried.

## **Department Report**

Nila Armstrong announced the Recreational Trails Program Manual is on the DNR website at [www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4101](http://www.in.gov/dnr/outdoor/4101). The deadline for applications is May 1, 2014. The appendix has all the necessary forms to make an application. Nila shared a report from the US DOT Federal Highways Administration for the distributions of the RTP funds for 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Bronson. All projects will be reviewed before the June meeting. Director Steve Morris and Section Chief Dale Brier have completed interviews for vacant position in the Streams and Trails Section of Division of Outdoor Recreation. It will be filled shortly. Leah Kopp will no longer be able to take the minutes for the board. June 7 is National Trails Day. Trail Advisory Board members were encouraged to list their National Trail Day activities on the American Hiking Society website.

## **Old Business**

**Reimbursement of Travel** –Nila stated that the reimbursement for Trails Advisory Board travel has been approved. It will be completed at the end of the meeting.

**Forest Report** - Dan Ernst, Assistant State Forester had a conflict today. He plans on attending the next TAB meeting to address the timber harvest and trail issues.

## **New Business**

The two new appointments to the board are Angie Pool – Trail Support Groups and David Meihls – Users with Disabilities. Jeff Fetterer – Mountain Bikes, Kevin Hardie – Environmental Groups, and Tim Calahan - Hikers were reappointed for another three years to the board.

## **User Group Reports**

**Bicyclists** – Nathan Smurdon (proxy) for Nancy Tibbett shared that Indiana Bike Summit will be held in Bloomington, April 24-26, 2014. Bike Week is May 12 – 16 with bike to work on that Friday. They are working on the Share-A-Bike along the Cultural Trail in Indianapolis. The goal is to have it launch in May.

**Four Wheel Drive Users** – Ryan Sweany announced that their yearly convention will be hosted by the Northwest Indiana Jeep Club in Cold Water, Michigan on March 7-9, 2014. The reason for going to Michigan is that there is no state off-road property in the northern section of Indiana. April 5 the Jasonville Boy Scouts, Redbird Foundation, and 4x4 clubs will have a clean-up at Redbird SRA. He talked about the additional railroad crossing Redbird SRA. Construction at Interlake SRA has been really slow due to the weather conditions.

**Off-Road Motorcyclists** –No report

**All Terrain Vehicle Users** –Gary Williams (proxy) reported that they are working on the 2014 Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience in September 20 & 21. June 7 & 8 is the DIRT Miracle Trail Ride and Race for Riley Hospital. It is located at the Lawrence County Recreation Park at Bedford, IN. The park received the “2014 Lawrence County Tourism Award Winner” for the “Favorite Attraction”. Gary was happy to report that the users at the park are following “stay off the trails” policy when it rains. We had only 30 riders this year at the park. When there is a sign of rain the park is like a ghost town.

**Equestrian** – Yvette Rollins announced the 2014 Hoosier Horse Fair & Expo is April 4-6, 2014 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. There is a Trail Improvement Fund Raiser at O’Bannon Woods State Park on March 28-30, 2014.

**Pedestrians** – Pat Martin let everyone know that Terre Haute is finishing up on a very successful 2013 “Year of the River Celebration.” It has been celebrating art, environment and other activities such as walking, hiking, biking, everything along the river. Pat shared a brochure of the National Road Heritage Trail. They are working on a trail from the Indiana State University to the new Track and Field complex. The trail will be extended to south of I-70. It will go through a restored brownfield. They have 1 mile completed and plan to have 4 miles by the fall. Terre Haute is working on another brownfield to be developed into a park. It would have three different skill levels for mountain bike users. However, it will include other recreational activities. The Rose Hulman students are working on a plan to develop a promenade for downtown Terre Haute to the Wabash River.

**Hikers** – Tim Calahan reminded everyone to make plans for National Trails Day.

**Parks and Recreation** – Melody Jones shared that Indiana Park and Recreation Association and other organizations have scheduled a Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Network Gathering at the Monon Community Center May10. It is located in downtown Carmel.

**Environmental Groups** – Kevin Hardie reported that the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Clean-up along the White River will be April 12. There are a lot of debris especially large trees from the December flooding. There is concern about the homeless camps along the river. Earth Day Indiana will be the last Saturday on April 26 at the White River State Park. He shared information regarding the plan for building a dam on the White River at Anderson. The study was funded privately. The project proposes to improve flood control, economic development, and supplement water needs for Indianapolis. The estimated cost is \$350 million to \$450 million to build. It would create a 2,100 acre lake. However, it would result in the loss of 1/3 Mounds State Park and earthworks built more than 2,000 years ago by the Adena-Hopewell Indians and Mounds Fen Nature Preserve, Range Line Park, and two canoe liveries. A major issue is three brownfield sites will be impacted.

**Water Trail Users** – No report

**Mountain Bikers** –Jeff Fetterer started with the success at the Southwestway Park, Indianapolis as a result of the cooperation between the mountain bike riders and equestrians. Mountain bikers are looking at the old girls scout camp in Brown County to TC Steele to Yellowwood State Forest to Brown County State Park as a possible trail. They got the approval for phase 3 at Hobbs Hollow in Brown County State Park. HMBA has setup trail bosses to inspect every trail system to do spring maintenance. They also are working with the Indianapolis Parks Department on developing about 12 – 15 miles of a trail system at Eagle Creek Park. The IMBA trail crew is coming to Indiana on May 15 -17 at Southwestway Park for work and training on the trails. Versailles State Park has gotten approval to work on the one side of the river. However, the river is an issue in the near future of “How to cross the river?” The last item is this Saturday, March 7 a mountain bike race hosted by the Hoosier National Forest that also includes contests for horses. Jeff announced that the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association has hired an employee. It is Tammy Mebane.

**Users with Disabilities** –David Meihls reported that March is “Disability Awareness Month”. Events are being hosted in local areas.

### **Other Business**

Pat Martin had a few questions, one being if Outdoor Recreation was going to do an update of the “Hoosiers on the Move” **The Indiana State Trails, Greenways and Bikeways Plan**. Nila told the group that it will be a chapter in the upcoming Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Board members requested an updated Indiana trails map for 2014. The second was regarding problems of using the “Indiana Trail Inventory” website. The comments were that you could not select a trail activity, small dots and issues with the county list.

### **Announcements**

April 4-6	Hoosier Horse Fair and Expo, Indiana State Fairgrounds
April 12	26 <sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Clean-up along the White River, Indianapolis
April 24 – 26	Indiana Bike Summit, Bloomington
April 26	Earth Day, White River State Park
May 10	Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Network Gathering, Carmel
May 12 -16	Bike To Work Week
May 16	Ride your Bike to Work Day
June 7	National Trails Day
Sept. 20 – 21	Ford Hoosier Outdoor Experience, Ft. Harrison State Park

### **Meeting Dates –**

June 26, 2014 - Tim Calahan will host at the restored Beck’s Mill south of Salem.  
September 4, 2014 – Dan Plath will host location to be announced.  
December 4, 2014 – Indianapolis at Indiana Government Center

**Adjournment** – Gary Williams made the motion to adjourn with a second from Melody Jones.